

THE CHRISTIAN LEADER

3. What he is to Teach (2)



(A series of studies from 1 and 2 Timothy)

Introduction

One area that the Apostle Paul had urged Timothy to teach about was to warn of false teaching that had entered the church, and to counteract that by teaching the truth. However there were other areas that were important issues at that time, and one had to do with the appointment of leaders. Along with that Paul encourages Timothy to remind believers to pray. Let's begin by looking at prayer.

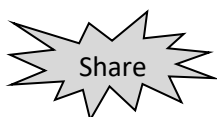
1. The Importance of Prayer 1 Timothy 2:1-10

- ✧ What are the types of prayer mentioned in verse 1? Discuss the meaning of each. Who are we to pray for? V1-2
- ✧ Discuss why Paul's reminder to pray for all men in high positions is particularly important?
- ✧ Find where the word 'all' is mentioned in v1-6. What does this teach us about God's concern for people? How can we pray effectively for others we do not know, so our prayer is not just 'God bless everyone'?
- ✧ What in our lives can hinder God answering our prayers? See v8 and Isaiah 59:1-2

2. Guidelines for Leadership 1 Timothy 3:1-13

What sort of person would make a suitable leader in the church? This is a question that Timothy faced, but is just as important today. Paul gives a guideline as to the kind of person who is qualified for Christian leadership.

- ✧ The word 'bishop' or 'overseer' is the same as 'elder' in the New Testament. This was the title given for the spiritual leaders of the church. List the qualities that should be found in a spiritual leader in v1-7.
- ✧ In what areas of life must a leader have proven himself before he is chosen for this position? V4 5, 7. Why is this important?
- ✧ Why does Paul advise that a recent convert not be given this responsibility? V6
- ✧ The deacons were those chosen to serve in the church, often in more practical ways, but they too had to be men of God. See Acts 6:1-6. What other qualities are mentioned here as important in Christian leaders? V8-12



What have you learnt from these passages on prayer and leadership that has challenged you?

Conclusion

Whether you are a leader of a small group or a large church, there are other believers who are looking up to you for leadership. Encourage your members to pray, and one way to do that is to pray with them. As they see you take a lead to pray for those in higher positions of authority in the church and in the nation, they too will learn the importance of doing so. Remember they are watching your example, not just in what you do when you are with them, but the way in which you live in your home, your school or work place. Be an example for others to follow.